



# The Lion and The Dragon

A Monthly News Sheet for St. Mark's, Basford and St Margaret's, Wolstanton

[www.stmarksbasford.co.uk](http://www.stmarksbasford.co.uk) and [www.stmargaretswolstanton.org](http://www.stmargaretswolstanton.org)

July 2024



## Dans le noir? Oh what mystery and what delight!

*Besides, all their days they eat in darkness, in much vexation and sickness and resentment. This is what I have seen to be good: it is fitting to eat and drink and find enjoyment in all the toil with which one toils under the sun the few days of the life God gives us; for this is our lot. (Ecclesiastes 5:17-18)*

Beloved, On a recent trip to London, a dear friend took me out for dinner (to butter me up as he wanted a big favour, but that's a story for another month's article!), and as the restaurant states it was truly "a unique sensory and human experience."

At "Dans le Noir? (French for 'in the dark') you dine in complete darkness, accompanied and served by unexpected guides. You enjoy your meal in pitch darkness, never knowing the layout of the room. The whole experience allows you to re-evaluate your perception of taste by reawakening senses overwhelmed by the omnipresence of sight, to reinvigorate your relationship with the world and others and to experience a surprising encounter with something different.

You enter the 'very' dark room by holding on to the waiter, and then the fun – or terror – begins. You had to work together

by speaking to each other to help along the way and use your hands to feel and work out where the cutlery, plates, food and wine was! I must admit to using my fingers to check I had eaten every part of my dishes! My partner had rather soaked trousers by the end of the event as he was less good at pouring water than I was! However, we were rather good at guessing the food (which is revealed to you later), except for the delicious beef I enjoyed which turned out to be chicken! Oh how the senses can be awakened and the mind works! At least I got the wine right! The strangest part was when the people sat next to us started talking to us – very bizarre, as you can only imagine.

I'm sure this experience will be one of those I bank for many a sermon illustration in the years to come, (especially when preaching on some of the blind characters that we meet in the scriptures) but certainly when we think about the Bible, God created from darkness to light, and as He fully came known to us in the Incarnation, "the light shineth in the darkness and the darkness hath not overcome it" (John 1:5).

I'm reminded of Matthew telling us about lighting lamps yet not hiding them under bushels, and of course darkness covering the land on that first Good Friday.

**Clergy:** Fr Tommy Merry ☎ 01782 624450 ✉ frtommymerry@gmail.com; Rev'd Pat Dunn ☎ 01782 846417.

**St Mark's Parish Administrator and Reader:** Julie Atkins ☎ 07791144581 ✉ jous1506@gmail.com

**St Mark's Churchwardens:** Diane Downward ☎ 01782 621424; Nick Atkins ☎ 01782 632213.

**St Mark's Reader:** Janet Pazio ☎ 07594135691; **Safeguarding Coordinator:** Jill Potts-Ayres ☎ 07792 549356.

**St Margaret's Safeguarding Coordinator:** Catherine Plumb 07944578077

That, however, is not who we are, we are people of light, and we do well to ponder the first chapter of John's first letter: We are writing these things so that our joy may be complete. This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light and in him there is no darkness at all.

Have a light, a bright, an all-seeing, and a Jolly July!

*Blessings, In Christ,  
Your Shepherd, Fr Tommy*

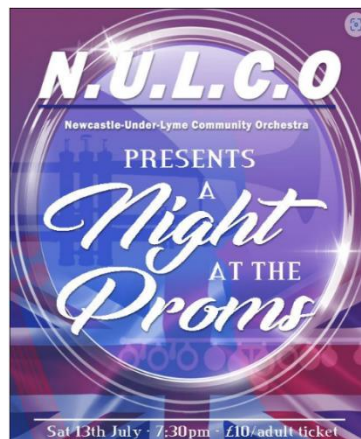
### Worship Services during July at St Mark's

3 <sup>rd</sup>	Wednesday	10.30am	Holy Communion (BCP)
5 <sup>th</sup>	Friday	12.30pm	Funeral
7 <sup>th</sup>	6 <sup>th</sup> after Trinity	9.30am	Holy Communion
8 <sup>th</sup>	Monday	1.45pm	Funeral
10 <sup>th</sup>	Wednesday	10.30am	Holy Communion (BCP)
14 <sup>th</sup>	7 <sup>th</sup> after Trinity	9.30am	Holy Communion
17 <sup>th</sup>	Wednesday	10.30am	Holy Communion (BCP)
21 <sup>st</sup>	8 <sup>th</sup> after Trinity	9.30am	Family Worship + Bap
24 <sup>th</sup>	Wednesday	10.30am	Holy Communion (BCP)
28 <sup>th</sup>	9 <sup>th</sup> after Trinity	9.30am	Holy Communion
31 <sup>st</sup>	Wednesday	10.30am	Holy Communion (BCP)

### House Group:

The House group continues the theme of 'The Beatitudes'. For more information, please speak to Janet or Heather.

**NULCO:** Newcastle Community Orchestra concert will take place on 13<sup>th</sup> July 7.30pm. For more information, please see Nick.



### Diary Dates for July

2 <sup>nd</sup>	Tuesday	7.00pm	PCC meeting
13 <sup>th</sup>	Saturday	7.30pm	NULCO orchestra
13 <sup>th</sup>	Saturday	7.30pm	NHS Choir
20 <sup>th</sup>	Saturday	1.00pm	Queens Bingo and Buffet
29 <sup>th</sup>	Monday	7.00pm	Baptism Prep evening

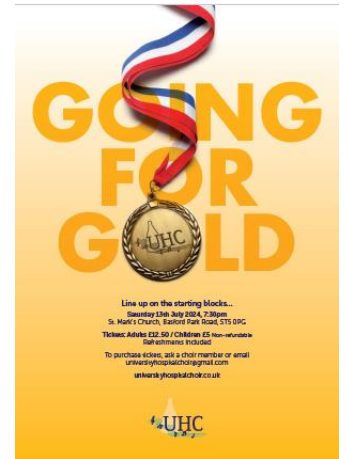
### Early August Dates

3 <sup>rd</sup>	Saturday	2.30pm	Afternoon Tea
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### University

#### Hospital Choir:

On 13<sup>th</sup> July a concert will be held here in St Marks at 7.30pm. For more information email: [universityhospitalchoir@gmail.com](mailto:universityhospitalchoir@gmail.com)



**Queens Bingo:** Our church queen Sarah will be finishing her year with a bingo and buffet on 20<sup>th</sup> July at 1pm. This will take place in the church hall. For tickets, please see Sue.

### Maybank Infants School:

A few places remain for September 2024 both in the Nursery and Reception. For more information please contact the school on 01782 898005.

### Worship Services during July at St Margaret's Church

7 <sup>th</sup>	6 <sup>th</sup> after Trinity	11.15am	Mass
14 <sup>th</sup>	7 <sup>th</sup> after Trinity	11.15am	Mass
21 <sup>st</sup>	8 <sup>th</sup> after Trinity	11.15am	Mass
28 <sup>th</sup>	9 <sup>th</sup> after Trinity	11.15am	Mass